

square miles and serves thousands of households in over forty municipalities in New Jersey. Five streams in the watershed form the Passaic River, which provides drinking water for over a million New Jersey residents!

In 2002 the Great Swamp Watershed Association produced "Doing Water Right," a video and instruction manual to demonstrate the benefits and application of "blue-water" technologies in support of proposed state storm water regulations. The Association's programs have received local, regional and national awards.

The Great Swamp Watershed Association has preserved local streams, protected environmentally sensitive land threatened by development, and promoted environmental education for all age groups. The Association also is responsible for land advocacy and water quality testing within the watershed. Most of this work is done by a dedicated and devoted group of volunteers from across the area.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Great Swamp Watershed Association on its 25th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF "LET'S ALL PLAY DAY" RESOLUTION

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a "Let's All Play Day."

I introduce this bill in support of the goals and ideals of Boundless Playgrounds. I would like to take this opportunity to share these goals and ideals with my colleagues in the House.

An estimated six million children in the United States have some type of chronic condition or disability that makes it hard or impossible for them to fully enjoy traditional playgrounds. Those who work with children with disabilities stress the importance of play in their development. Boundless Playgrounds differ from traditional playgrounds in the sense that these playgrounds, and the equipment within the playgrounds, are accessible to all children. They are barrier-free, inclusive and configured to support children's development. Perhaps most importantly, by encouraging children with and without disabilities to play together, these playgrounds provide a space to celebrate similarities and differences and develop essential life skills. I can think of no better way to combat stereotypes than to expose our children to others with disabilities at a young age.

Currently, there are more than 100 Boundless Playgrounds in twenty-one states, with more in development. In my own district, a Boundless Playground in Providence, Rhode Island provides many Rhode Island children and their family members the ability to interact and play together. I have been amazed and inspired by how the community has come together in support of this park—most notably the contributions of Hasbro, Inc. Such cooperation is a tremendous testament to Rhode Island's commitment to supporting children who struggle to overcome obstacles.

Mr. Speaker, we could all take a lesson from the forethought put into the design of Boundless Playgrounds. In the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other initiatives that have encouraged the inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities, I am proud to recognize Boundless Playgrounds for their dedication to all children and families. I hope my colleagues will join me in the effort to acknowledge these extraordinary playgrounds by cosponsoring this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was recorded as having missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 6166, the Military Commissions Act. I was present during the vote and intended to support this measure; however, my vote was not recorded.

I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "aye" on this measure.

THANKS TO SUBHASRI RAMANATHAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to give thanks to Sue Ramanathan, Democratic deputy staff director and chief counsel of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security.

Sue was one of the original staff members of the Select Committee on Homeland Security from the 108th Congress, and has been a dedicated public servant whose leadership on border security and immigration issues has helped us proficiently tackle those hard issues and whose counsel has been a vital element of our homeland security efforts.

Sue began her tenure on Capitol Hill as a legislative fellow for Senator JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN and as a member of the Washington, DC, staff of the American Bar Association before joining my colleague ZOE LOFGREN as her senior policy advisor and counsel. While working for Congresswoman LOFGREN, Sue earned an LL.M in international and comparative law from Georgetown University Law Center. It was on behalf of Congresswoman LOFGREN that Sue was able to contribute to the conversation surrounding our Nation's immigration policies, the same policies that she and her family were first subject to as immigrants to our great Nation. The Congresswoman joins me in commending Sue today, as demonstrated by her comments to follow.

She left the Hill for a brief period to work on a Presidential campaign, before returning in 2004 to join the Select Committee of Homeland Security under Ranking Member Jim Turner of Texas. At the beginning of this Congress, when I became ranking member, I named Sue chief counsel and deputy staff director. In addition to helping develop the legislative and oversight activities of the Demo-

cratic Committee staff, Sue also led our immigration and border security team efforts. In this capacity, Sue played a critical role in implementing the committee's legislative agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this was no small task.

One particular debate that I will not soon forget pertained to the House's consideration of comprehensive border security legislation this past year. Committee staff spent countless sleepless nights and early mornings working on behalf of the American people to mitigate the risk posed by this Nation's porous borders. Sue coordinated the committee's floor time on H.R. 4437, the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005. In particular, she worked closely with my colleague SILVESTRE REYES on the Democratic motion to recommit. Mr. REYES had this to say about Sue, "as a member of Congress representing a district on the U.S.-Mexico border, my staff and I had the pleasure of working with Sue Ramanathan on several pieces of homeland security legislation in recent years. In every instance, I was impressed by her knowledge, professionalism, and dedication. Though we are sorry to see her leave the staff of the Homeland Security Committee, we are fortunate that she will continue to work on the many homeland security issues facing our country in her new position. We wish her all the best."

In addition, she was one of the committee's key staffers on the committee's first two authorization bills, as well as on legislation to correct and restructure the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Sue's expertise and dedication will be deeply missed in the House. I am comforted, however, by the fact that Sue's insight and expertise will not be lost to the Members of this House. Unlike so many others who turn in their congressional ID cards for large paychecks in the private sector, Sue has maintained her commitment to public service. Thankfully, she will remain a public servant, dedicating this new chapter in her career in the Homeland Security and Justice Division at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO, and helping to ensure Congress's critical check and balance on the executive branch of Government. Mr. Speaker, I wish Sue, the committee's favorite Cherry Hill native and Rutgers graduate, the best in her new venture. I look forward to seeing great things from Sue and her new family at GAO as they, undoubtedly, work to ensure that America gets homeland security right once and for all.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF AZERBAIJAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, on October 18, 2006 Azerbaijan will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of its re-independence. As members of Congress recognize this important occasion, I think it is essential to point out the remarkable strength, determination and ingenuity of Azerbaijanis who have taken difficult steps to transform their country over the last 15 years.

One of the most significant developments contributing to Azerbaijan's transformation is